

January 2008

Volume 10

Inside this issue

-Team Thule rings in New Year with help from M80
Page 2

-Team Thule celebrates awards, promotions
Page 6

-ABG/CD emphasizes training and preparation
Page 7

-Ribbon cutting at UEWR
Page 8

-21st OG/CC visits Thule
Page 11

-Thule recognizes annual award winners at formal banquet
Page 12-13

Thule Times Editorial Staff

Col. Lee-Volker Cox,
821st Air Base Group Commander
1st Lt. Nicole Langley,
Chief, Public Affairs

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military service overseas. Contents of the Thule Times are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force. The editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the Public Affairs office of the 821st Air Base Group, 21st Space Wing, Air Force Space Command, Thule Air Base, Greenland, APO AE 09704. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. Articles can be sent to: 821ABG.PA@Thule.af.mil.

Drug enforcement at Thule AB

Senior Airman Brandon Lenz

821st Security Forces Squadron

Team Thule members were recently surprised to see and hear a dog at the remote Arctic installation.

A Danish Police Inspector and his canine counterpart paid a visit to Thule Air Base Jan. 25 – 28.

Farda Olsen, a 33-year-old Greenland native and Danish Police Inspector, and Kenzo, a 4-year-old, all-black German shepherd, arrived here from Thule's closest village, Qaanaaq, by helicopter.

Inspector Olsen and Kenzo are a Drug Detection Team capable of uncovering the popular European drug, Hashish. Kenzo's primary duty is detecting narcotics, but he is also trained for search and rescue to locate missing persons, defense of his handler and attack, if necessary.

"He is very unique," Inspector Olsen said. "In that he is one of only four all-black German Shepherds in Greenland."

Inspector Olsen has been a Police Inspector for eight years and has worked with Kenzo for the past three. The duo will work together for another five years and then Kenzo will be retired.

"I think it is awesome they have the opportunity to work together for so long," said Master Sgt. Dan Leon, 821st Security Forces Squadron Operations superintendent. "This will continue to make them the best team they can possibly be."

Unlike American police dogs, Kenzo conducts his building searches off leash. He is trained to attack only on command, so personnel in the areas he searches are completely safe. This also gives him the ability to sniff out anything on their person.

Another interesting difference between Kenzo and American police dogs is that when he alerts on something, he will bark continuously at the suspicious area as opposed to sitting.

After a demonstration of Kenzo's ability to discover hidden drugs and Inspector Olsen's

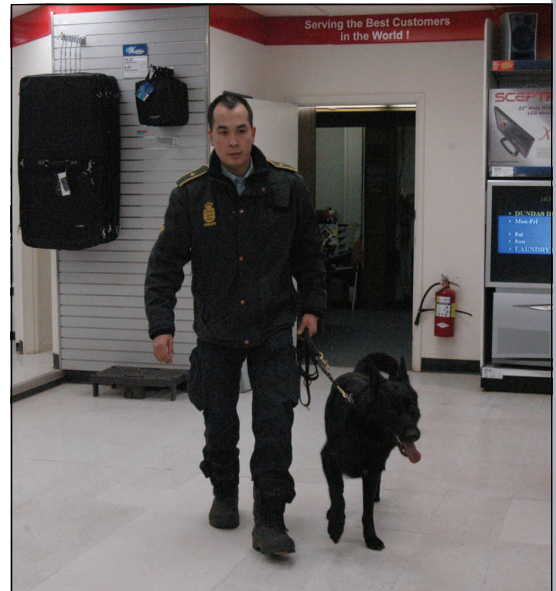


Photo by 1st Lt. Nicole Langley

Farda Olsen, Danish Police Inspector, and Kenzo, a 4-year-old German Shepherd drug detecting dog, search the Thule Air Base Exchange for narcotics Jan. 25. Kenzo and Inspector Olsen visited Thule AB Jan. 25-28 and searched nearly 20 buildings and facilities.

handling skills, Col. Lee-Volker Cox, 821st Air Base Group commander, formally certified the team to search at Thule Air Base.

Following certification, their first stops were the Base Exchange, Greenland TelePost and several dormitories.

During their time here, Inspector Olsen and Kenzo were escorted by John Hansen, Danish Police Inspector, and Senior Airman Brandon Lenz, 821st Security Forces Squadron. They dedicated more than six hours searching nearly 20 buildings and facilities on base, which included dayrooms, hallways and individual offices when personnel were present.

"This visit by Inspector Olsen and Kenzo was another example of the great partnerships we have with Denmark and Greenland," said Colonel Cox. "Through this type of international cooperation, we're able to ensure continued drug enforcement and successful drug reduction efforts at the Top of the World."

Ring in the new year



M80

Performs for an enthusiastic crowd!



While it wasn't quite New Year's Eve in Times Square, the energy and excitement were just as high as a few hundred Airmen, contractors and Danish civilians rang in the new year at the Top of the World.

Thule Air Base rang in the new year with a grand celebration at the Top of the World Club. In addition to festive decorations and party favors, attendees were treated to live music provided by the visiting band, M80.

The band arrived a few days prior to the big event and had time to tour base facilities, receive mission briefings and meet the people of Thule.



Photos by 2nd Lt. Donald Heaton

In addition to the celebration in the ballroom at the Top of the World Club, a special six-course New Year's Eve dinner was offered in the dining room. Attendees enjoyed a variety of gourmet dishes from Mulligatawny Soup to Filet Mignon and Chicken Saltimboca, along with a selection of desserts and wines.



First Term Airman Course

Jan. 9-11



Photos by 2nd Lt. Donald Heaton

First term Airmen who arrived at Thule Air Base in December and early January participated in the First Term Airman Course here Jan. 9-11. The three-day course included presentations on a variety of topics ranging from dress and appearance standards to enlisted professional development and consumer credit.

Facilitators for the course were Master Sgt. Jayson Vincent and Tech. Sgt. Christy McDonald, 821st Support Squadron.

At the conclusion of the FTAC, the course participants battled the base's senior leadership to a volleyball match. While the new Airmen lost, they learned about teamwork and volleyball skills from the other team.



Photos by 1st Lt. Nicole Langley



The FTAC graduates pose for a photo along with their course facilitators after the final event of the course. Front row from left to right are: Airman 1st Class Shea Arias, Airman Allison Wulf, Airman Kyle Budine. Back row from left to right are: Tech Sgt. Christy McDonald, Airman 1st Class William Guzman, Airman 1st Class Bradley Cooper, Airman 1st Class Kyle Geiswite, and MSgt Jayson Vincent

12th SWS Guardian Challenge competitors



Photo by Lt. Col. Mike Brantley

The 12th Space Warning Squadron's Guardian Challenge team poses for a photo at a breakfast here the morning of their evaluation Jan. 10. Pictured from left to right are: Lt. Col. James Forand, 12th SWS commander; Staff Sgt. Charles Mathew, secondary team instructor; Staff Sgt. Rob Henneman, 1st Lt. Chirag Bhatt and Tech. Sgt. Scott Fraser, Guardian Challenge team members; 2nd Lt. Donald Heaton, primary instructor for the team; and Col. Lee-Volker Cox, 821st Air Base Group commander. Guardian Challenge is the only space warfighter competition in the Air Force, and it pits the best-of-the-best space warfighters against each other, determining the top Space Wing teams in the Air Force. The 12th SWS team finished in the top third for the 21st Space Wing, and is awaiting news of their exact placing.

12th SWS competes in space warfighter competition

12th Space Warning Squadron

The 12th Space Warning Squadron competed in the 2008 21st Space Wing Guardian Challenge "Wing Shootout" during the second week of January. Representing 12 SWS was 1st Lt. Chirag Bhatt, crew commander, Tech Sgt. Scott Fraser, crew chief, and Staff Sgt. Rob Henneman, space console operator.

Guardian Challenge is the only space warfighter competition in the Air Force. The competition pits the best-of-the-best space warfighters against each other, determining the top Space Wing teams in the Air Force.

The event captures the essence of competition through rigorous evaluation and increases the overall capabilities of operations teams to perform their missions. Guardian Challenge is the only peacetime opportunity for Air Force space wing teams to fully demonstrate the effectiveness of their training and procedures in a competitive environment.

Lessons learned from this competition are used to refine day-to-day procedures and policies. To qualify for GC, teams first compete at their home stations in a "shootout" to determine who will represent 21st Space Wing at the Air Force Space Command-level competition in April.

These teams are evaluated against stringent criteria and standards developed by AFSPC. Only the highest scoring teams in each mission area compete for their respective trophy.

Awards are presented to the best Space Wing team in each mission area during the competition banquet held at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. The Blanchard Trophy is presented to the Best Space ICBM Wing Team; the O'Malley Trophy goes to the Best Space Warning Team; the Arnold Trophy goes to the Best Space Surveillance Team; the Aldridge Trophy goes to the Best Space Operations Wing Team; and the Schriever Trophy is presented to the Best Space Launch Wing Team.

Ultima Thule: the legend lives on

Col. Lee-Volker Cox

821st Air Base Group commander

Ultima Thule: for more than 2,500 years since the Greeks, it was the land of legends, the most northern place on Earth, a world of extremes. Today, when people hear Thule, they still think of a mystical place, far north of the Arctic Circle, where only the strong survive. Strong is an excellent word to describe Team Thule. However, we are doing much more than just surviving. Our extreme performances drove tremendous success last year. We are the living legend at the Top of the World.

Earlier this week, Air Force Space Command announced we were the command's Verne Orr Award winners for the best use of our people and resources. There is no higher recognition for Team Thule and our extreme achievements.

Through laser-focused space superiority support, we guaranteed over 99.9% mission success rate for missile warning, space situational awareness and satellite command and control operations.

Eleven ships, from tankers to ice-breakers to warships, docked at the world's northernmost deep water port and processed more than 2,000 tons of cargo and 9 million gallons of fuel, while the longest airfield inside the Arctic Circle handled more than 4,300 passengers and 1,200 sorties.

Operations BOXTOP I and II moved more than 830,000 lbs and 1.5 million gallons of JP-8, ensuring the continued operations of Stations Alert and Eureka. The Danish Air Force relied on Thule to support Station Nord, the Sirius Patrols and multi-role Challenger aircraft ensuring fisheries and pollution enforcement and providing regional security and Arctic search and rescue capabilities.

Our modern clinic continued to serve Northern Greenland, Northeastern Canada, and the Arctic Ocean, providing care to 4,037 patients, including deployment of a medical team to Saunders Is-

land to save a Greenlandic researcher.

Researchers primarily from the National Science Foundation, Danish Polar Institute, NASA and the Peregrine Fund continued to call Thule home and use it as a logistics base and expedition jump-off point. From global warming to weather to birds of prey, we provided vital data to the world.

As we continued to improve efficiencies, savings came from a wide range of activities. The base's footprint became smaller as 108,000 square feet of facilities were consolidated, saving \$330,000 year in fuel and maintenance costs. Over 81,000 gallons of fuel was recycled, saving an additional \$632,000. New equipment was purchased for the landfill that will extend its usable life 40 years.

We also enjoyed a few historic firsts. As part of BOXTOP II, Canada's first C-17 completed its maiden Arctic Circle voyage. FOX News visited us for an entire week transmitting stories to more than 87 million people, becoming the most northern news crew to ever broadcast live. For the first time, college courses were offered to everyone at Thule. Who can forget go-karts on Top of the World? Our accomplishments could fill a book. If you want to hear about more of them, stop me at the Community Activities Center, Fitness Center or Top of the World Club, I'm always excited to talk about our Thule Family and our extreme accomplishments.

2007 was extremely successful, but that was last year. True legends transcend time and 2008 presents numerous opportunities beyond our day-to-day space superiority mission.

The Upgraded Early Warning Radar will start operational testing. We will begin improving our infrastructure by overhauling the power plant and repairing the pier. Team Thule will once again provide critical logistical support to ensure the survivability of Station Nord and Canadian Forces Stations Alert and Eureka.

Camp Tuto will come back to life as we partner with the National Science Foundation to establish an overland resupply route to Neem and Summit, transforming how research is done on the icecap.

2008 is shaping up to be an exciting and legendary year!

We live where legends are made. From the Inuit's ancestors, who transformed the frozen north into their home thousands of years ago; to the Vikings who conquered the Arctic; to the explorers who braved the extreme environment to reach the North Pole; to the dedicated men who built Thule Air Base in 101 days; we live where the impossible happens every day and legends are a way life.

We are the Ultimate Performers, the Ultimate Team, the Ultimate Family. 2007 was a great year and 2008 is off to a fantastic start. Are you ready to be part of the legend? There is no doubt, from the Top of the World, we are Ultima Thule.



Photo by Col. Lee-Volker Cox

The star on South Mountain shines like a beacon in the dark at Thule Air Base. Along with the Christmas tree in front of the base headquarters building, the star was turned on when the sun set in 2007 and will remain on until the end of the dark season. The sun will rise for the first time in 2008 on Feb. 11.

Thule Spotlight

- Congratulations to the following Air Force Space Command award winners:
 - 821st Air Base Group, Verne Orr Award
 - 1st Lt. Nicole Langley, Outstanding Communication Company Grade Officer
 - Master Sgt. Timothy Quinn, Fuels Senior NCO of the Year
- Congratulations to Master Sgt. Chester Spires, 21st Space Wing's First Sergeant of the Year
- Congratulations to the following 21st Space Wing fourth quarter award winners:
 - Tech. Sgt. Amanda Beatie, NCO of the Quarter
 - Rachel Kasic, Civilian Supervisory Category II of the Quarter
- Congratulations to the following captain selects:
 - 1st Lt. Chirag Bhatt, 12th Space Warning Squadron
 - 1st Lt. Nicholas Van Elsacker, 821st Support Squadron
 - 1st Lt. Kevin Wiacek, 12th SWS

If you would like to submit something for the Thule Spotlight column, please send it to 821abg.pa@thule.af.mil. Submissions are accepted from anyone on base, including military and civilians.

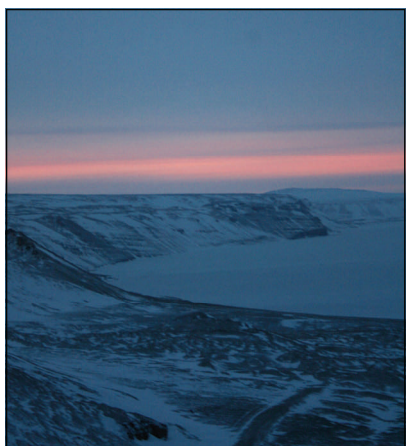


Photo by Col. Lee-Volker Cox

The beginning of the light season at Thule Air Base.

Promotions



Photo by 2nd Lt. Donald Heaton

Capt. Florian DeCastro, Detachment 3 commander, was promoted to the rank of major in a ceremony at the Top of the World Club Jan. 4.



Photo by 1st Lt. Nicole Langley

Capt. Russell Hunt, 821st Security Forces commander, was promoted to the rank of major in a ceremony at the Top of the World Club Jan. 24.

Train and prepare, not assume or presume

Lt. Col. Mark Erickson
821st ABG deputy commander

The tide of the American Civil War was perceptibly beginning to turn in favor of the Union Army (the North) in the middle of 1864. After the Confederate Army under Robert E. Lee was decisively defeated by Union forces in July of 1864 at Gettysburg, the Southerners no longer had the ability to wage offensive operations on northern soil. However, the rebel forces still wielded substantial firepower for not only localized offensives in the south, but also could stand fast in defensive operations against Union onslaughts.

It was in this environment that the Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse took place May 8-21, 1864. General Grant (in command of the Union Army) was attempting to push deeper into Virginia so that ultimately he could threaten and take the Confederate capital city of Richmond.

In command of the VI Corps of the Army of the Potomac (North) was Maj. Gen. John Sedgwick. During the initial stages of this battle, General Sedgwick's forces were attempting to determine the exact deployment and configuration of Confederate forces, so that the general could decide upon the appropriate placement of his own divisions. Attempting to exercise leadership from the front lines, General Sedgwick was overseeing the positioning of artillery batteries, but Confederate snipers were approximately 1,000 yards away.

Sharpshooters were not a phenomenon new to the Civil War. In fact, they played a decisive role in several battles (King's Mountain among them) during the American Revolutionary War 90 years earlier. While many of General Sedgwick's subordinates were seeking appropriate cover, General Sedgwick maintained a position on open ground, and historical accounts quote him as stating, "What? Men dodging this way for single bullets? What will you do when they open fire along the whole line? I am ashamed of you. They couldn't hit an elephant at this distance." The general assumed he was not in danger

from snipers over half a mile away. His presumption, despite historical evidence to the contrary, was that riflemen could not maintain accurate fields of fire from that distance.

He was wrong. Minutes later, a Confederate sharpshooter's bullet smashed through General Sedgwick's face below his left eye, killing him instantly. General Sedgwick earned the distinction of being the highest ranking Union casualty of the Civil War.

Why should you care about this obscure historical anecdote? What can we learn from this incident? First, I would offer up the importance of listening to your subordinates. No one is going to provide 100 percent correct inputs up or down the chain of command 100 percent of the time. However, each of us, in both our roles as subordinates and supervisors, must give close attention and consideration to the information and feedback we receive.

This would be especially important in situations in which you're being told, "Hey sir, you might die if you press on with your current actions!" A supervisor is not under any obligation to always make their decisions exactly as the inputs they receive. However, a supervisor is being derelict in the execution of their responsibilities if they do not even consider the inputs they receive from their subordinates, thereby missing out on the expertise and experience these subordinates can offer.

Second, and perhaps even more important, is the notion of making assumptions and presumptions. The dictionary defines assumption as "a fact or statement taken for granted." A presumption is "an attitude or belief dictated by probability." In the military environment we do at most times have to assume certain things to be true: the chain of command will function, good order and discipline underpin effective operations, that sort of thing.

However, making ironclad assumptions about our enemy's capabilities or intentions is a dangerous business. Intelligence about our opponents is never

perfect and therefore presumptions about their next actions must always be categorized as, to some degree, uncertain.

General Sedgwick paid the ultimate price for assuming he was not within the effective fire zone of enemy snipers. Had he listened to his subordinates and not made assumptions about the enemy's capabilities, perhaps he could have led his Corps to a more effective contribution to the Union effort that day (the battle ultimately ended in a stalemate, with Grant losing over one-third of the 100,000 men fielded).

In today's Air Force and certainly at Thule Air Base, what course of action do we consciously take instead of making assumptions and presuming certain things to be true? We train and prepare. One never knows in today's Air Force what your next required task may be. Therefore, we all train for a wide variety of contingencies.

In today's era of ever-shrinking budgets and manpower numbers, we must all exercise competence across a wide spectrum of possible challenges. This competence only comes through hard work, rigorous training and extensive preparation. What can you do to train and prepare yourself for whatever the Air Force puts on your plate? Will you be ready for the next challenge?

None of the answers should come as a surprise and I hope you're making personal efforts in each of these areas.

- **Maintain physical fitness:** Given the uncertain nature of your future tasks, you should ensure your body is in good shape, with a high level of cardiovascular fitness. Do just as much aerobic exercise as you do weights! Eat well, figure out how you can reduce stress.
- **Maintain mental fitness:** Have you completed the appropriate level of professional military education and at the appropriate time? This involves dedicating a substantial portion of your off-duty time to studying, but it is necessary to be a well-rounded Airman, NCO or officer. Have you completed the appropriate level of civilian education?

See **TRAIN**, Page 8

TRAIN from Page 7

Again, this may cut into your X-Box or HBO time, but our Air Force believes it will make you a more effective performer, so get on it!

- Maintain psychological/emotional spiritual fitness: It's certainly not for me to say how you should do this. But please understand that the Air Force does maintain a well-trained cadre of chaplains and mental health professionals for the express purpose of ensuring that all Air Force personnel have the necessary emotional strength and balance in their life to handle the many and diverse challenges which we know the Air Force will give us.

Gee, that's not too much is it? Let it never be said that being an Airman in the U.S. Air Force is an easy job. It is not. Our responsibility to defend our Nation is far too important for our job to be easy. However, with long-term, dedicated effort you too can be well-trained and sufficiently prepared to handle any task. You won't have to assume or presume; you'll have the necessary tools to tackle the challenge and succeed! Good luck!

**Editor's Note: Lt. Col. Mark Erickson will PCS Feb. 15. Lt. Col. David Arnold will assume the 821st ABG/CD position.*

Ribbon cutting ceremony



Photo by 1st Lt. Nicole Langley

Col. Kyle Haase, Ballistic Missile Defense Systems Worldwide Deployments program manager, Col. Lee-Volker Cox, 821st Air Base Group commander, and Lt. Col. James Forand, 12th SWS commander, cut the ribbon at a ceremony held here Jan. 24, which marked the symbolic completion of the Upgraded Early Warning Radar construction phase and beginning of the equipment installation phase. The upgrade will consist of modifications to hardware and software that will provide detection and tracking of ballistic missiles launched toward North America and other nations, and is expected to be operational in late 2009 after extensive testing.

UEWR ribbon cutting marks end of construction phase

1st Lt. Nicole Langley

821st Air Base Group Public Affairs

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held here Jan. 24 as the symbolic completion of the Upgraded Early Warning Radar construction phase at the 21st Space Wing's Ballistic Missile Early Warning System – Site 1, operated by the 12th Space Warning Squadron.

The actual completion of the facilities is 95 percent, explained Gary Young, Missile Defense Agency site manager at Thule.

The event also marked the beginning of the UEWR equipment installation phase.

The ribbon was cut by Col. Kyle Haase, Ballistic Missile Defense Sys-

tems Worldwide Deployments program manager, Col. Lee-Volker Cox, 821st Air Base Group commander, and Lt. Col. James Forand, 12th SWS commander, in a ceremony attended by members of Thule Air Base and MDA representatives.

The upgrade will consist of modifications to hardware and software that will provide detection and tracking of ballistic missiles launched toward North America and other nations.

After the upgrade, the radar will continue to perform its decades-long early warning mission, said Richard Lehner, MDA Public Affairs officer. It will also be able to search for different types of missiles, distinguish hostile objects such as warheads from other objects and provide this data using

improved communications systems.

However, the upgrade will not change the physical appearance of the radar, and no new facilities or radars are planned to be built at Thule Air Base or elsewhere in Greenland.

Thule's radar is the third of five radars that are programmed to be upgraded to the UEWR configuration. The radars at Beale Air Force Base, Calif., and Royal Air Force Fylingdales have been upgraded and are currently progressing through the final stages of the upgrade program.

After extensive testing, Thule's radar is expected to be operational in late 2009, expanding the base's space situational awareness capabilities.

Turning off engines protects environment, saves money

A message from Col. Lee-Volker Cox, 821st ABG commander

Team Thule,

I need your support in helping us save money, fuel and the environment. Since most of January and December were cold, I think many of us got in the habit of letting our vehicle's engine run.

Recently the temperatures have been rather warm for Thule standards. So warm in fact, that vehicles should be turned off when they aren't being driven. When we let our engines run it uses fuel, puts wear and tear on our vehicles, and produces pollution.

Fuel and vehicle repairs cost money. In today's very tight budgets, we need to save every penny possible. Team Thule has also been entrusted with keeping the pristine and globally important arctic environment clean. Exhaust from vehicles adds unnecessary pollution to the environment.

As a reminder, keeping your engine running is only authorized when temperatures are minus 25 C/minus 13 F or below and you do not have access to a hot plug for an extended (several hours) period of time.

Thanks for your support. I know together we can protect the environment and save money doing it.

Culture of Responsible Choices at Thule Air Base

As part of the Air Force's Culture of Responsible Choices initiative, each month Thule Air Base sponsors a CoRC activity to reinforce the message that there are plenty of fun alternatives to drinking. These activities vary from dodgeball and kickball competitions to board games.

The December CoRC event was a video game tournament held at the Airmen's Center. January's event was a bowling tournament.



Photos by 1st Lt. Nicole Langley



Photo by 2nd Lt. Donald Heaton

Fourth Quarter Award Winners



Photo by 1st Lt. Nicole Langley

The Fourth Quarter award winners pose for a photo at a luncheon in their honor Jan. 17. at the Top of the World Club. All of the award winners were from the 821st Support Squadron. Positioned between Col. Lee-Volker Cox, 821st Air Base Group commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Nathalie Swisher, 821st ABG superintendent are: Capt. Marie Meihls, Company Grade Officer of the Quarter; Rachel Kasic, Civilian of the Quarter; Tech. Sgt. Amanda Beatie, NCO of the Quarter; Airman 1st Class Crissy Nelson, Airman of the Quarter; and Master Sgt. Andrea Richards, Senior NCO of the Quarter.

Highlights of award recipients' outstanding achievements:

Captain Meihls — She served as the acting 821st SPTS commander in the commander's absence, and oversaw all functions of 43 military and 622 contractor units; as the Thule Combined Federal Campaign representative, she raised more than \$13,000 and helped the base achieve the highest participation rate for U.S. Air Force units geographically attached to Europe.

Sergeant Richards — She worked directly with Peterson AFB to ensure that all military members who PCS to Thule are medically qualified; as a key supporter of Operation Julemand, she coordinated the donation of items from the U.S. for the annual Operation Julemand auction; and she orchestrated medical evacuations for two Team Thule individuals.

Sergeant Beatie — As a resource steward, she identified weekly rotator passenger no-shows and reduced wasted tickets by 100 percent and foiled a \$36,000 loss; she completed her "Course 12" nine and a half months ahead of deadline, and with an 86 percent average, is postured for success; and as a key squadron member, she orchestrated a Thanksgiving meal for 25 squadron members and devoted 10 hours to tutoring Airmen.

Airman Nelson — She initiated a fix on the group's only Common Access Card machine and eliminated a 35-day outage; she created and routed 28 FEML/TDY/EML requests; and she assisted in end of year funding, helping organize and coordinate all requests.

Ms. Kasic — She served as the acting Services director/NAF operations clerk/Marketing director, and ensured operational stability for Thule; when a fire closed the club, she directed 488 hours of building repair, began food delivery in less than 24 hrs and reopened in four days; and she identified and successfully advocated for more than \$15,000 appropriated funds and more than \$120,000 non-appropriated funds, in order to help modernize the club.

Distinguished visitors



Above: Lt. Col. Mike Brantley and Capt. Nia Bluford discuss the UEWR with Chief Master Sgt. Randy Lacombe Jan. 17.

Above right: Col. Chris Crawford meets with 12th SWS members in the squadron's conference room Jan. 17.



Photos by 2nd Lt. Donald Heaton

On Jan. 17, Col. Chris Crawford, 21st Operations Group commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Randy Lacombe, 21st chief enlistment manager, arrived at Thule Air Base to provide the 12th Space Warning Squadron direct interface with their chain of command. During their visit, Colonel Crawford shared with the squadron his leadership vision, the make-up of the 21st SW foundation, his permanent intent, and some of his general priorities as well as priorities specifically involving missile warning/defense and space surveillance.

Their visit also provided the 12th SWS the opportunity to share how they were meeting the 21st SW's expectations. They discussed the status of the Enduring Operations Campaign and listened to how the 12th SWS is accomplishing effective training and validation of training through the evaluation process, in order to ensure mission precision.

The Upgraded Early Warning Radar was also an important topic, as Thule is currently in the process of becoming a part of the missile defense arena. During a previous visit, Colonel Crawford saw the beginning stages of the 12th SWS transition; during this visit he was able to see the squadron's progress as the construction phase nears completion.

Thule AB hosts rare retirement ceremony

Thule Air Base was honored with a rare ceremony Jan. 29 when it retired one of its military members. Tech. Sgt. Ted Wilson served 20 years of honorable service and felt it best to conclude with his Air Force family here at the Top of the World.

Lt. Col. James Forand, 12th Space Warning Squadron commander, officiated over the ceremony, which included the presentation of the colors by the Thule Air Base Honor Guard and a flag-folding ceremony.

Sergeant Wilson was the Air Traffic Control NCO in charge of Standardization and Evaluation. He retired to Colorado Springs, Colo.



Photo by 1st Lt. Nicole Langley

Team Thule

Annual Awards Banquet

On Jan. 31, Thule Air Base recognized the best of the best at the Annual Awards Banquet held at the Top of the World Club.

Prior to the banquet, the nominees were presented with medallions at a private ceremony at the base's Heritage Hall. All nominees present wore their medallions throughout the remainder of the evening. Due to PCS, some nominees and winners were not present.

After a buffet dinner and a historical video presentation about the creation of Thule Air Base, the award winners were announced.

The 821st Air Base Group award winners received a gift certificate from the Thule Association of Professional Airmen and a 300 minute USO phone card.

Team Thule award winners were treated to gift packages provided by Greenland Contractors, gift certificates for a helicopter ride to Savissivik provided by Air Greenland and 550 minute phone cards courtesy of the USO.



Photos by 2nd Lt. Donald Heaton

Annual award nominees pose for a photo during the Medallion Ceremony prior to the Annual Awards Banquet here Jan. 31. Nominees, pictured with their medallions, are (from left to right) Staff Sgt. Rodney Cathcart, Master Jayson Vincent, Senior Airman Michael Kohut, Master Sgt. Mark Koopman, Capt. Mike Phipps, Tech. Sgt. Jason Hartjen, Master Sgt. Chester Spires, 1st Lt. Nicole Langley, and Senior Airman Patrick Housman. Nominees not pictured are: Capt John Bennett, Master Sgt. Daniel Leon, Tech. Sgt. Shane Richardson, Staff Sgt. Bradley Reeves, Airman 1st Class Melanie Camara and Rachel Kasic.



Jim Poulsen, Air Greenland manager, poses for a photo with Team Thule award winner Captain Phipps and Tech Sgt. Shane Richardson's substitute gift recipient Airman Allison Wulf.



Elisabeth Wagner, chief of Program Management for Greenland Contractors, presents a gift package to Team Thule award winner Capt. Mike Phipps.

And the winners are ...



821st Air Base Group Airman of the Year

Airman 1st Class
Melanie Camara,
821st Security Forces
Squadron



821st Air Base Group Senior NCO of the Year

Master Sgt. Daniel Leon,
821st Security Forces
Squadron



821st Air Base Group NCO of the Year

Tech Sgt.
Shane Richardson,
821st Support Squadron



821st Air Base Group First Sergeant of the Year

Master Sgt. Chester Spires,
821st Air Base Group



821st Air Base Group Company Grade Officer of the Year

Capt. John Bennett,
821st Support Squadron



821st Air Base Group Civilian Supervisor of the Year, Category II

Rachel Kasic,
821st Support Squadron

2007 Team Thule Award Winners



Left: Team Thule Company
Grade Officer of the Year:
Capt. W. Michael Phipps

Right: Team Thule Enlisted
Member of the Year:
Tech. Sgt. Shane Richardson



Reflections

Master Sgt. Michael Hall, 821st Support Squadron and president of the Thule Multicultural Committee, delivers a special message at the Chapel's Feb. 20 service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Photo by Col. Lee-Volker Cox

Fireworks at the Top of the World!



Photos by Col. Lee-Volker



Thule Air Base had planned to usher in the New Year with fireworks, but due to poor weather conditions, the fireworks had to be rescheduled for Jan. 12. The show began at 1 p.m. and lasted approximately 15 minutes. Although there was a faint amount of light in the sky, the fireworks shined brilliantly over the frozen North Star Bay.

Storm Condition Charlie



Photo by Col. Lee-Volker Cox

On Feb. 4, Thule's main base went into, and stayed at, Storm Condition Charlie for nearly eight hours.

To go into Charlie, which is only the third highest of four storm conditions, winds must be greater than 35 knots and visibility less than half a mile. During a Charlie-level storm, base personnel must remain inside.

The Weather Office recorded the Feb. 4 wind speeds on base at 61 miles per hour and off base at 72 miles per hour. On Feb. 3, winds registered more than 104 miles per hour off-base at VORTAC.

The photo at left shows structural damage caused by the storm.

New cinema at Thule!



Photos by Col. Lee-Volker Cox

Since residents of Thule Air Base do not have the option of going off-base for entertainment ... because there is no off-base, the entertainment options must come to Thule.

As a means of improving quality of life, a new cinema is being constructed in the base Community Center. It will be a state-of-the-art movie theater with stadium-style seating and surround sound. The theater is expected to be completed by the end of February and will provide base residents with another entertainment option while living at the Top of the World.

Snow removal at Thule Air Base



Photo by 1st Lt. Nicole Langley



Photo by Col. Lee-Volker Cox

Thule Air Base has 41 pieces of equipment for snow removal operations, including deicers, dump trucks, loaders, blowers, rollover plows, graders, sweepers, sand spreaders, arctic trucks and tracked rescue vehicles.

During the storm season, the snow removal team works tirelessly to ensure that day-to-day operations and travel can continue without major disruption.

Community Center Activities

Trip to D-Launch



Backgammon Tournament



Winners:
Jakob Pedersen, 2nd place;
Tech. Sgt. Mark Wakeam, 1st place;
and Tech. Sgt. Amanda Beatie, 3rd place.